Promotion of local defence groups

†937. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that village defence groups are active in various States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government promote local defence groups in different ways;

(c) if so, the number of village defence groups active in various States in the country and the levels at which Government provide assistance to them;

(d) whether it is a fact that some leaders during their visits to Jammu and Kashmir had announced a prize. to the village defence groups for killing terrorists at the rate of Rs. one lakh per terrorist; and

(e) Government's attitude with regard to encouragement given to the village defence groups by any political party?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government encourages the State Governments affected by terrorism, insurgency and naxalism, to promote local defence committees/village defence committees (VDCs).

(c) As per information available, in Assam there are 11298 village defence parties to assist the police. In Nagaland the number of village guards in 8232. The number of Village Defence Committees in Jammu and Kashmir is 3742. The members of these committees are local volunteers.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Police registered an FIR in Police Station, Nawabad, Jammu, against the concerned persons.

Bangladeshi Intruders

938. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.